

# REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

STATE CAPITOL

JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

907-165-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

Mr. Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Room 8-B201  
Washington DC 20554

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FILED/ACCEPTED

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

January 24, 2007

Re: Free Internet Access

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am interested in seeing every Alaskan connected by wireless internet within the foreseeable future. The internet has proven to be indispensable to those who have access. We use it for information and research; it is our access to daily news, our communication with our families, for many it is a vital link to the world.

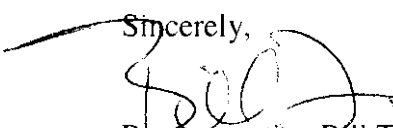
Unfortunately many Alaskans don't have internet access due either to the high cost in rural areas or in some cases not being served by landlines or cable. Another user-group not always considered, is Fisheries. Free access would allow the fisheries group a direct link to their markets, daily weather updates and communications with their families.

A free nationwide broadband internet system would remedy this. I understand that the FCC is currently considering a proposal to provide just such a system. I am writing to you to encourage the FCC to endorse the proposed concept of free broadband internet access.

The cities within my district recently voted in support of the Alaska Municipal League resolution asking the federal government to "consider all alternatives that would allow for the delivery of free, nationwide, wireless broadband access to its citizens." My constituents support free nationwide broadband internet availability and I ask you to consider this proposed alternate.

Please make this letter a part of any relevant application files. I would also appreciate being made aware of future applications for free broadband internet services.

Sincerely,

  
Representative Bill Thomas

Cc Ted Stevens  
Lisa Murkowski  
Don Young

e-mail: [Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)  
webpage: [www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/](http://www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/)

# ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

## Resolution No. 2007-13

### A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE **FREE**, NATIONWIDE, WIRELESS BROADBAND ACCESS THAT WILL HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

**WHEREAS**, ubiquitous access to reliable broadband internet service is essential for national economies to **grow** and compete in the information economy; and

**WHEREAS**, for many Alaskans, broadband Internet access is either too costly or simply unavailable, which has contributed to a digital divide that separates Alaskans in their access to information and, consequently, in their ability to participate in the information economy and in civic affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has fallen further behind other countries with regard to the availability of broadband Internet access; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting children from exposure to indecent material on the Internet continues to be a **serious** challenge; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for reliable communication among first responders, command centers, and municipal officials every day and in **response to** natural **disasters**, acts of **terrorism** and other **emergencies**; and

**WHEREAS**, a nationwide, **free**, wireless broadband network that is safe for children, by employing **network-level** filtering of indecent material would **benefit** the American public in many ways. For example, such a network would

- Help to **bridge** the digital divide and give **more** Americans the opportunity to participate in the information economy and in civic **affairs**; and
- Help American businesses, and in particular, small businesses and entrepreneurs compete in the United States and around the world by **increasing access** to information, encouraging innovation, expanding marketing opportunities and improving prospects for growth; and
- Protect children from indecent material on the Internet while allowing for increased freedom to **use** the Internet as an educational tool in school, at home, and in home **schools**; and
- Improve the ability of **first responders**, command centers and municipal officials to respond to emergencies, thereby enhancing public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of **Alaska** would **benefit** from such a wireless broadband network

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Alaska** Municipal League supports efforts to provide free, nationwide, wireless broadband access that will help bridge the digital divide **that** separates many Americans and **that** would help all Americans **compete** for **jobs** in the information economy, **ensure** a safe **environment** and prosperous **future** for our children, and make **us** global leaders in providing our citizenry access to the **Internet** and all its benefits; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Alaska** Municipal League **urges** the Alaska Legislature and the United States **government** to consider all **alternatives** that would allow for the delivery of free, nationwide, wireless broadband **access** to its citizens.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE** on **the** 17th day of November 2006.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Bourcy, President  
Alaska Municipal League

Attest: